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THE

ARTICLES,

Settlement and Offices

Of the FREE

SOCIETY

OF

TRADERS

IN

PENNSILVANIA:

Agreed upon by divers

MERCHANTS

And OTHERS for the better

Improvement and Government

OF

TRADE

IN THAT

PROVINCE.

LONDON,

Printed for *Benjamin Clark* in *George-Yard* in *Lombard-street*,
Printer to the Society of *Pennsilvania*, MDCLXXXII.

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The PREFACE.

READER,

HOneſt and Induſtrious Traffique *has been the* Uſage *and the* Praiſe *of many* Nations; *And in this all Countries ſeem Agreed, that their* Wealth *and* Strength *are* Begun, Continued *and* Increaſed *by it*: *A Truth common Experience daily Confirms*: *For this hath made and is making many* Princes *and* States *in the World endeavor to have their Subjects proſper in* Trade. *The very* Indian Princes *are now convinced of this Truth, which makes the* King *of* Bantam *ſend his* Embaſſadour *here*. *This is likewiſe the* Reaſon, *why many conſiderate men have thought fit to joyn themſelves in a* Society *of* Trade *in* Pennſilvania; *which after ſome* Difficulty *they have Accompliſhed*. *But this may be modeſtly ſaid, It is a very* Unuſual Society, *for it is an* Abſolute Free One, *and in a* Free Country: *A* Society *without Oppreſsion*; *wherein all may be concerned that will*; *and yet have the ſame* Liberty *of* private Traffique, *as though there were* no Society *at all*. *So that this* Society *is Calculated both to Promote the* Publique Good, *and to Encourage the* Private. *And indeed it ſeems not poſsible, that* Province *ſhould be Improved in many Years without it, as it is like to be in a*

few Years by it. However, it is such a Society, *as can do harm to none; but may do good to all: Which a serious perusal of the* Government *of it will plainly Evince to the considerate and Ingenious. We may add, that 'tis no small Conveniency and Ease to the minds of* Planters *(happily unacquainted in* Trade*) that they may have some part of their* Estates improving *in an* united way *and* Care, *whilst they thereby may with less Distraction and more* Freedom *of Spirit, apply themselves to their particular* Plantations. *For here a few Hands do the Work of the whole; and by this honest and free Device, the whole will be furnish'd fresh and fresh, from time to time in the nature of a* Bank. *This* Union *of* Traffique *prevents* Emulation; *for every One is Interested in every Ones prosperity; and the* Profit *must be greater and surer; and* Navigation, Manufacture *and* Arts *better Improved, than by the Force of* private and divided Stocks. *To Conclude, 'tis an* Enduring Estate, *and a lasting as well as certain* Credit: *a* Portion *and* Inheritance *that is* Clear *and* Growing; *free from the mischief of* Frauds *and* False Securities; *supported by the* Concurrent Strength *and* Care *of a* great *and* prudent Body, *a kind of perpetual* Trustees; *the Friend of the* Widdow *and the* Orphan, *for it takes no advantage of* Minority *or* Simplicity. *These and many more great Advantages Accrew to a Society so* Freely Constituted *as this appears to be by the ensuing* Articles *of* Agreement, *which are* Imposed *on none, but* recommended *to all with this assurance, that nothing is hereby* intended, *but what is* consistent *with* Justice *and* Prudence; *to the*

beſt of their Skills that were concerned in the Framing *of it: And it is hoped that the* Improvements *which may accrew by it, will prove of no ſmall advantage to that Country, and Old* England *from whom it takes its Original.*

To which Reader, *it may not be improper to add, that this* Society *is endowed with divers* Immunities *and* Priviledges, *by* Grant *and* Charter *from* William Penn *the* Governour *of that* Province.

London, 25. 1 *ſt. Mo. called* March, 1682.

Nicolas More,
James Claypoole,
Philip Ford.

THE

ARTICLES,

Settlement and Offices

Of the FREE

SOCIETY

OF

TRADERS

IN

PENNSILVANIA, &c.

IT is Agreed, That the *First General Court* shall be held at *London*, upon the *Twenty Ninth* of the *Third* Month called *May*, 1682. And for ever after, the *General Court* shall be held on the *First Fifth Day* called *Thursday* in the *Ninth Month* (*November*) every Year after in the Capital City in *Pennsilvania*, where *Votes* shall be Received by Letters to the *Society's Secretary* from all that do not appear there personally, for the *chusing* of *Officers*: Which *Votes* shall be Regulated by these following Conditions:

I. M-

The Free Society of Traders.

IMPRIMIS.

That none in *England* shall have above *One Vote*, whatever *Sum* they *Subscribe*; unless they have a *Share* of *Land* in *Pennsilvania*, at least *One thousand Acres* of their own, with some *Inhabitants* upon it: In such Cases they shall have their *Votes* proportionably to their *Stocks*, as in the following Article.

ARTICLE II.

That all that are *Inhabitants* in *Pennsilvania*, shall have for *two Twenty five* pounds, *one Vote*; and each *Fifty pound* single, *one Vote*; *one hundred* pounds, *two Votes*; *three hundred* pounds, *three Votes*, and none more.

ARTICLE III.

That the *Book* of *Subscriptions* shall be open here in *England*, till the *twenty ninth* day of the *fourth Month* called *June*, *One thousand six hundred eighty two*, and no longer. And in *Pennsilvania* from the *Arrival* of the *first Ship* belonging to the *Society* for *six Months* after, paying *fifteen per Cent. Sterling* in Consideration of the *Risco* Run by the *Society* by such as *Subscribe* within *thirty daies*, and for every Month after *one per Cent.* to be added to value of the *Cargo*.

ARTICLE IV.

That none shall *Subscribe* in the *Societys Stock* less than *twenty five pounds*. Yet if *five* Joyn together, and make up the *twenty five pounds* (provided it be *subscribed* in *one* man's name) it shall be *accepted* of but in that Name only.

ARTICLE V.

That at the *first General Court* or *Assembly* held as aboveſaid (*viz.* the *twenty ninth* of the *third Month* alias *May*, 1682.) all the *Subscribers* here in *England* shall Confirm their *Subscriptions*, which shall be by the depositing *five per Cent.* as a part of that, which

which shall then be *Agreed* on to be paid *within a Month* after. And at that time shall be *Chosen* the *Officers* of the *Society*, *viz.* The *President*, the *Deputy*, the *Treasurer*, the *Secretary* and *twelve Committee-men*, whereof any *Five* and the *President* or his *Deputy* shall make a *Quorum*.

ARTICLE VI.

That all the *Committee-men* shall have but *one Vote* a piece in the *Committee*, whatever their *Stock* be; and the *President* or the *Deputy*, if the *Votes* be *Equal*, shall have the *Casting Voice*.

ARTICLE VII.

That at *seven years* end, from the time of *shutting* the *Book* in *Pennsilvania*, it shall be *opened* again for *New Subscribers*; and so to Continue for *every seven years*; a due *Valuation* of the *Stock* being first made by the *Committee*, that so every one may *Subscribe* according to the *Valuation* then *Agreed* on

ARTICLE VIII.

That *Two hundred Servants* be sent away the *first Year*, of such *Trades* and *Capacities* as may be most for the *benefit* of the *Society*; which is to be *Adjudged* by the *Committee*.

ARTICLE IX.

That it shall be Lawful for any one that has *Subscribed*, to add to their *Subscription* before the *Month* is out, what *Sum* they please.

ARTICLE X.

That none shall be *President*, *Deputy* or *Treasurer*, that have not *five thousand Acres* of *Land* in *Pennsilvania* of their own, and *one hundred pound* in the *Societies Stock*.

ARTICLE XI.

That the *General Officers* shall continue for the *First seven years*,

and then a new *Election* shall be made, they being fixed in their *Abode* in the *Society's-House*, there to act for the *Society*, without change of their power in *Priviledges*, except they do Commit any act *destructive* or *prejudicial* to the Real *Interest* of the *Society*, which first is to be proved sufficiently in the *Court* of *Assistants*; and then the *Offender* or *Offenders* are to be dismissed, and the Court of *Assistants* to chuse another, who is to Continue till the *General Court*; which *Court* of *Assistants* shall yearly be Chosen and added to the *Committee*.

ARTICLE XII.

That the *President* shall Call together the *Court* of *Assistants* to help and advise in any Emergent occasions relating to the *Society*, as *To receive more Money, To make a Dividend, To chuse new Officers in Case of Death, To settle new Factories, To enter upon Mines, Build Ships*, &c.

ARTICLE XIII.

The *Committee* shall chuse all *Inferiour Officers*, as *Store-House-Keepers, Clerks, Book-Keepers, Factors*, at home and abroad; then they shall direct, what shall be *Planted, Built*, &c.

ARTICLE XIV.

That all *Forfeitures*, that shall arise, shall be Employed upon the *Improvement* of a *parcel* of *Land* alloted for the *maintenance* of such their *Wives* and *Children*, who have been *disabled* in the *service* of the *Society*.

ARTICLE XV.

That the *Society's Books, Patents, Records* and *original Papers* be kept in a Convenient place in the House under *three Locks* and *Keys*, one whereof shall be kept by the *President* or *Deputy*, the other by the *Treasurer*, the *third* by the *Eldest Committee-man*.

ARTICLE XVI.

That these *Books, Papers* and *Patent*, &c. shall not be Intrusted in

in the hand of any ſingle perſon for longer ſpace than to *tranſcribe* any part of it in the *day time*, and in the Houſe before ſome *one* or *more* appointed by the *Committee*; and that the *Book-keeper* ſhall only have *Copies* of them, which may be Viewed or Peruſed *once a Month* by any *Member* of the *Society*, who deſires it: *All Originals* to be kept as before.

ARTICLE XVII.

That *Security* ſhall be taken of the *Treaſurer* and of all *Servants* relating to the *Society*, that is, ſuch as have any *Truſt* Committed unto them, as *Agent*, *Store-keepers*, *Ship-Maſters*, *Clerks*, *Overſeers* and *Servants*, &c. and thoſe to be given by Perſons of known Honeſty and Eſtate. And thoſe *ſervants* ſhall be bound *to keep the ſecrets of the Houſe*, that is, not to give Intelligence to any Perſon, no, not to any *Member* of the *Society* (without leave firſt obtained publickly in the *Committee*) upon *forfeiture* of their *ſecurity*.

ARTICLE XVIII.

That if the *Society* ſhould receive *Blacks* for *ſervants*, they ſhall make them *free* at *fourteen years* end, upon Conſideration that they ſhall give into the *Society's Ware-houſe two thirds* of what they are Capable of producing on ſuch a *parcel* of *Land* as ſhall be allotted them by the *Society*, with a *ſtock* and neceſſary *Tools*, as ſhall be *Adjudged* by the *Society's* Surveyor. And if they will not accept of theſe *terms*, they ſhall be *ſervants* till they will accept it.

ARTICLE XIX.

That no *Mineral Undertaking* ſhall be begun by the *Committee* without the approbation of the *General Aſſembly*.

ARTICLE XX.

That the *Committee* ſhall at every *Yearly Meeting* of the *General Court* diſcover the *Incouragement* or *Diſcouragement* they meet with in the Courſe of their *Trade* both at *home* and *abroad*.

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ARTICLE XXI.

That the *Society* may ſet up *two or more General Factories* in *Pennſilvania*, one upon *Cheaſapeak-Bay*, and the other upon *Delaware River*, or where elſe the *Committee* ſhall ſee neceſſary for the more ſpeedy Conveyance of *Goods* in the *Country* and *Mary-land*: but that the *Government* of the *whole* be in the *Capital City* of *Pennſilvania*.

ARTICLE XXII.

That the *Society* ſhall be *Aſſiſting* to the *Indians* in their ſetling in *Towns* and other places, both by *Advice* and *Artificers*.

ARTICLE XXIII.

That there ſhall be *twenty four Aſſiſtants* added to the *Committee*, whereof *twenty* and the *Preſident* or *Deputy* makes a *Quorum*.

ARTICLE XXIV.

That the *Firſt Aſſembly* in the Province of *Pennſilvania* ſhall be deſired to *Ratifie* the *Patent Granted* by the *Governour* or this *Society* by an *Act* of *Aſſembly*.

ARTICLE XXV.

That all the *Members* of the *Committee* and *Court* of *Aſſiſtants* ſhall have timely and ſufficient notice and *ſummons* in writing left at their Dwelling of every intended *Court*, to prevent Indirect and unjuſt Proceedings.

It is further Agreed.

ARTICLE XXVI.

That all and every one, who have *ſubſcribed* any *ſum* in the *Society's-ſtock*, and ſhall not after the *ſecond ſummons* bring in their *ſecond Payment*, ſhall be incapable of diſpoſing of that *part* in the *ſtock* before diſburſed; but the *Society* ſhall diſpoſe of the ſame unto

unto such, who will fulfill the *Agreement* in all *payments*; they only being Capable of Receiving their *first Penny* or disbursement. Alwaies excepted such, who through any *Calamities* have been reduced to *Poverty*, whereby they are Rendred *Incapable* to fulfill the same; that then the thing being proved before a *Committee*, they shall have power to *sell* the same to the *best Advantage*. And as this is *Agreed* on for the *second payment*, so it is of *all others*, if there be more.

ARTICLE XXVII.

That there shall be in *England* a *Chief Agent*, Superiour to all *Agents* or *Factors* belonging to the said *Society*, that are in *Europe*, unto whom the *Society* shall direct their *Letters* and consign their *Goods*: He shall have a *Council* of *six Factors*, one of which shall be his *Deputy*. This *Council* shall, with him, Reside in *London*; and shall on all occasions meet to Advise together, how to dispose of the *Society's Goods*, and buy such *Goods* as the *Society* shall direct to be bought, to Execute all other Orders, as shall be required of him or them. And to give every *Factor* his *Commission*, how to proceed in what pertains unto his place: So that all and every one of them shall *Act* by the *Advice* of the *Chief Agent*, and he by the *Order* of the *Committee* in *Pennsilvania*; All these being *Chosen* by the *General Assembly*, they giving good and sufficient *Security* to the *Society* for their *true* and *faithful Service*.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

That the *President*, *Deputy*, *Secretary*, *Treasurer*, *Surveyor* and all the *Servants* of the *Society* shall bring into the *Society's Warehouse*, what *Peltry* they buy of the *Indians* in their Respective *Plantations* with their own *private Goods*: This shall be Entred in the *Books* of the several *Offices* to prevent *Fraud*. Those *Goods* shall be sent over with the *Society's Goods*, and shall have what *Return* they will for the same, allowing to the *Society*, *Fraight*, *Factorage*, &c.

ARTICLE XXIX.

That it shall be *Lawful* for *all*, who will bring their *Goods* to the *Society's Ware-house*, so to do and to have the same *Returns*, as they shall desire. This being *granted* and *Allowed*, will bring in most of the *Countries Goods* in the *Society's* hands, which will in time prove the *great Advantage* of the *Society*; and most Eminently to the *Planters*, who are not able to send into *England*, where possibly they may be deceived by their *Factors* or *Attorneys*, they having in the *Society* the greater *Security* Imaginable for their *Effects*.

Some of the *Officers* and *Offices* for the SOCIETY, Viz. *President, Deputy, Treasurer, Agent, Secretary, Surveyor,* Twelve *Committee-men, Chyrurgion, Factors, Clerks, Overseers, Messengers, Porters, Butchers, Water-men, Carr-men,* &c.

The *Four Offices* for the *Society*.

The Secretary Office.

TO this *Office* shall belong the *Book-Keeper*, the *Factors*, *Chyrurgeon*, *Clerk* of all *Offices*, *Messengers*, *Overseers*, *Water-men*. The *Secretary* shall be alwaies ready to receive *Orders* of the *President* or *Deputy* for the Execution of all *Warrants* to be Issued out abroad, to *write* all *Letters*, &c. for the *Society's* Service, and to *direct* the *Plantations* in their Duties, as the *President* and *Courts* are Agreed on to be done: As when any *Ships* are *going Out*, then to write to *Factors* abroad, *&c.* When any *Factors* are wanting *Supplies* of *Goods*, to give *Warrants* in the *Treasury-Office* for the same under the *Presidents* own Hand and Seal, or his *Deputy*; and nothing delivered without this Method. And when *Goods* are *brought in*, then to take *Account* of the same, and give an *Acconnt* to the *President* of them, and Enter them in that *Office* also. If any *Servant Dyeth*, to receive Information of it, and make Record. If any *Run away*, to receive Information, and take Order of the *President* about it, *&c.* If any be *Sick*, to Issue *Warrants* for their help by the *Presidents Order*, &c. If *Cattle Dye*, to Record it; If any be *Increased*, to Record the *Place*, *Kind*, *Number*. To receive

receive *every Week* a particular *Account* of all *Overseers*, *Factors*, &c. of all *Increases* and *Decreases* of *Trade*, &c.

The Treasury Office.

TO this *Office* shall belong the TREASURER, *Two Clerks*, *Porters*, *Butchers*, *Water-men*, *Carr-men*, *Chyrurgeon*, *Husbandmen*, *Handicrafts*, &c, every one of them giving Account to the *Treasurer* of their *Works*, and all to be Recorded in the *Treasury-Office*, and to be Transmitted into the *Secretary's-Office* every *Seven* daies, and all those *Officers* and *Servants* to be directed in their Proceedings by *Warrants* from the *President* or his *Deputy*, and nothing to be delivered out without the same, to prevent *Deceit*, &c. And that there shall be *Two Ware-houses*, one for *Exportation*, and the other for *Importation*: Unto each of them shall belong a *Clerk* to keep *Journals* of *Goods Come In* and *Gone Out*; and to keep the *Warrants* from the *President* for their *Security*. And that if any *Goods* are received in, and *not Recorded* in the *Secretary* and *Treasury-Office* within *two daies*, it shall be a *Forfeiture* of such Penalty thought fit to be Imposed by the *Court* of *Assistants*.

The Surveyor's Office.

TO this *Office* shall belong the *Surveyor*, an *Assistant*, a *Clerk*, a *Searcher*.

This *Surveyor* shall *View* all *Ships*, and what is thereunto belonging, whether fit to be made use of for the *Society's Service* or no; and make Report to the *President*. He shall *Oversee* all *Overseers*, *Servants*, their *Works*, and make *Record* of them all, giving Information of all things in the *Secretary-Office*, and to the *President* or his *Deputy*; and keeping *Record* in his *Office* of the same. He shall see all *Goods Shipped Safely* and others *Landed*; He shall view all *Ware-houses*, their *Goods* that they be kept well, *&c.* That all *Warrants* from the *President*, be duly put in Execution, *Survey* all *Entries* and *Invoyces*, all *Buildings*, all *Cattles*, &c. that the *Society* may not suffer by any; keeping a *Journal* of all things which are every *seven daies* to be Compared with the *Secretary-Office*, where all things are to be *Recorded*. And *Record* being duly made, all the *Books* to be *signed* by the *President* or his *Deputy*, and afterwards to stand for good and Just Actings in the

the *Court* of *Committee* and *Assistants*: And this being passed, never more to be recalled.

The Miner's Office.

TO this *Office* shall belong an *Agent*, *Clerks*, *Miners*, *Refiners*, *Brick-makers*, *Tile-makers*, *Potters*, *Lime-burners*, &c.

The *Agent* shall daily receive Informations from the *Miners*, &c. of what is done, and make *Record* of it in his *Office*, and shall be *Signed* by the *Clerk* and himself. Then to send it to the *Secretary-Office* every *seven days* there to be *Recorded*; the *President* or *Deputy* having approved the same. And the *Agent* shall Answer for all *Defaults* and *Wrong* done to the *Society* in any of the things, that are under his *Custody*, until they are *Recorded* and *Received* in the *Custody* of the *Treasurer*.

These are the Heads, upon which the *Society* is to be *Governed*, and the *Offices* by which all is *Administred* and secured from *Fraud* and *Deceit*. What further is necessary for the same, must be left to the Wisdom of the *President* and *Court* of *Assistants*, who in time may give an Exact Account of other things relating thereunto.

For the Conveniency of such who are desirous to Subscribe to *The Stock of this Society*, if they please to Apply themselves to *Philip Ford* in *Bow-Lane* near *Cheap-side*, there their Subscriptions may be Entred.

THE END.

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